

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 20 are pending in the above-identified application. Claim 1 is amended and no claims are either cancelled or added.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants amend independent claim 1 in order to clarify the subject matter. Please see Listing of Claims. Support for the amendment is found in FIGS. 1 and 2 and the specification, page 9, lines 6-35. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is now solicited.

Briefly, in amended claim 1 of the above-identified application, the first contactor (2, 8) is for applying a voltage to the semiconductor element on the wafer 6 and the second contactor (4) is for supplying signals to input terminals and for measuring signals from output terminals by making contact with the terminals (6b) of the second system, which are signal electrodes of the semiconductor device. Accordingly, the first contactor is connected to the power supply system and the second contactor is connected to the signal system, that is, the first contactor and the second contactor are connected to different systems, respectively.

As claim 2 depends from claim 1, it should likewise be allowable in light of the above comments in regard to the §112 rejection by nature of its dependency.

Upon allowance of claim 1, Applicant respectfully request rejoinder of the non-elected species claims.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims, as herein amended, are in condition for allowance. Applicants request such action at an early date.

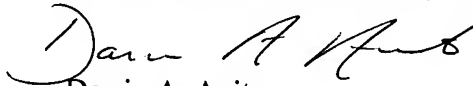
Response under 37 C.F.R. §1.111
Attorney Docket No. 032003
Serial No. 10/677,378

If the Examiner believes that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

If this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fees for such an extension or any other fees that may be due with respect to this paper may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-2866.

Respectfully submitted,

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